

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
H-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
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R 131240Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 528
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT MO
SUBJECT: MOROCCAN REACTION TO VANCE NOMINATION

1. MOROCCAN MEDIA REACTION TO VANCE NOMINATION HAS BEEN FACTUAL AND POSITIVE, DRAWN LARGELY FROM INTERNATIONAL WIRE SERVICES. SEMI-OFFICIAL AND OPPOSITION PAPERS DEC. 4, FOR EXAMPLE, REPRODUCED AFP REPORT OF NEW YOK TINES COMMENTARY CHARACTERIZING SELECTION AS "A WISE CHOICE". SECRETARY-DESIGNATE'S INTERVIEW WITH NEWSWEEK DEC. 3 ALSO WIDELY REPORTED IN DEC. 7 PRESS, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON ANTICIPATED PRIORITY FOR MIDDLE EAST. SEMI-OFFICIAL MAROC SOIR HEADLINED, "SOMETHING NEW IN US MIDEAST POLICY - THE US MUST PUT HEAVY PRESSURE ON ISRAEL." THE PAPER ALSO CARRIED AFP ITEM THAT VANCE FAVORABLE TO TOTAL EMBARGO AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. ARABIC LANGUAGE PAPERS DEC. 10 PLAYED UP POSSIBLE VANCE VISIT TO MIDDEL EAST SOON AFTER INQUGURATION.

2. EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS THUS FAR BEEN LIMITED. OPPOSITION ISTIQLAL PARTY'S AL-ALAM DEC. 7 SAW NOMINATION AS REFLECTING "CARTER'S TENDENCY TO CHOOSE CONSERVATIVE AND TOUGH PERSONALITIES FOR HIS ADMINISTRATION." ISTIQLAL'S L'OPINION SAME DAY CALLED VANCE AN "EXPERIENCED NEGOTIATOR SPECIALIZING IN MISSIONS IMPOSSIBLE." ARABIC LANGUAGE PRESS HAS ALSO CARRIED EGYPTIAN AND OTHER ARAB COMMENTS, AND SEMI-OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY MAP HAS

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REPORTED EGYPTIAN SATISFACTION WITH THE NOMINATION.

3. HIGH LEVEL OFFICIAL MOROCCANS HAVE WARMLY WELCOMED THE APPOINTMENT IN DISCUSSIONS WITH AMBASSADOR. KING HASSAN, DURING AUDIENCE DEC. 8, DISPLAYED KEEN INTEREST IN SECRETARY-DESIGNATE'S BACKGROUND AND PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. PRIME MINISTER OSMAN COMMENTED SAME DAY THAT VANCE WAS OBVIOUSLY WELL VERSED IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, RECALLING HAVING MET VANCE DURING AMBASSADORSHIP TO US (1967-70). KING'S BROTHER, PRINCE MOULAY ABDALLAH, HAS ALSO SAID HE WAS HIGHLY IMPRESSED WITH VANCE'S QUALIFICATIONS. MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR TO UN ALI BENJELLOUN LAUDED THIS "FIRST CLASS CHOICE", REFERRING POSITIVELY TO PERSONAL DEALINGS WHILE AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON (1962-65).
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